

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SY-05 A-01

OPR-02 USSS-00 DHA-02 PC-01 AID-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /089 W

-----042886 021215Z /46

P R 020945Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9015

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 1616

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, CT, US, UK, PFOR

SUBJ: DETENTION OF WESTERN JOURNALIST

REF: BANGUI 1614, YAOUNDE 3329

1. EMBASSY LONDON MAY WISH TO SHARE WITH FCO RELEVANT POSITIONS OF REFTEL REPORTING AMBASSADOR'S AUDIENCE WITH BOKASSA AUGUST 1. BOKASSA GAVE NO INDICATION THAT EARLY RELEASE OF GOLDSMITH WAS LIKELY. WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN THE MORNING OF JULY 29, WHEN IMPERIAL ADVISER BARKAN WAS VERY POSITIVE ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR EARLY RESOLUTION, AND NOW. HMG MAY AGAIN WISH TO CONSIDER SUMMONING THE CAE AMBASSADOR IN PARIS TO LONDON. ALTERNATIVELY, OR IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS HMG MIGHT WANT TO SEND A HIGH-LEVEL FIRST-PERSON MESSAGE DIRECTLY TO THE CAE FOREIGN MINISTER OR TO BOKASSA HIMSELF.

2. HMG IS NOT SUBJECT TO ACCUSATIONS OF TRYING TO "ELIMINATE" BOKASSA; ON THE CONTRARY, THE VISIT OF THE DAILY MAIL MEN WENT VERY WELL. HMG CAN THEREFORE MAKE STRAIGHTFORWARD APPEAL ON BEHALF OF ONE OF ITS CITIZENS -- FOR CONSULAR ACCESS, DUE PROCESS
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AND ULTIMATELY RELEASE.

3. WE GAVE BARKAN JULY 30 COPIES OF HMG NOTES TO CAE EMBASSY PARIS. WE HAVE NOT BEEN IN FURTHER TOUCH WITH HIM AND DO NOT KNOW IF HE HAS BROUGHT THEM TO EMPEROR'S ATTENTION. IN ANY EVENT WE DO NOT THINK "IMPERIAL SUMMONS" TO CONSUL PRINCE IS LIKELY IN THE ABSENCE OF ADDITIONAL HIGH LEVEL EFFORT BY HMG.

QUANTON

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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